

The International Archive of Women in Architecture Center
School of Architecture + Design at Virginia Tech, Blacksburg, VA

2022 IAWA Symposium – *Breaking Through*

March 24-25, 2022, Blacksburg, VA and online

Abstracts Due: November 15, 2021

Selection announced: December 15, 2021

The IAWA opens the call for abstracts for the 2022 IAWA Symposium – *Breaking Through*.

Throughout history, women in architecture and design have used their professional and academic practices to contribute to the built environment and the development of design disciplines: they have carved new paths toward invention and innovation, challenged established (gendered) limitations, and developed alternative forms of practice, to name just a few pioneering outcomes.

Additionally, within every woman's body of work, there are known or identifiable breakthroughs: singular or multiple instances exist that have influenced the designer's creative and professional path, and that may have advanced the disciplines in some manner, or expanded women's standing in the profession. This year's IAWA symposium invites researchers and practitioners to contribute papers or creative presentations that identify instances in the career of a woman designer that have been or should be recognized as a breakthrough: a relevant revelatory moment.

The call particularly seeks to uncover and give visibility to the material artifacts produced by women in practice or academia that have prompted this point(s) of inflection in their lives, careers, or in the projects or studies they have conducted. Such material artifacts – a sketch, drawing, note or scribble, study model, personal letter, collage, rendering, screen print, photograph, outline or synopsis of written work, academic project prompt – serve as physical markers. They record relevant advances and innovations that may have impacted their creator's personal path, at a personal or at broader scales. Material artifacts illustrate how the designer may have influenced the histories of the disciplines, or altered the perception and development of the built environment. Furthermore, material artifacts may serve as evidence of the types of limitations – whether personal or imposed by the profession, academia or society – that women have transcended.

Highlighting the myriad forms in which women have and continue to break through in architecture and related design fields, the call invites presenters to contextualize the stories revealed by the chosen material artifacts. The call also invites speculations about instances and artifacts that may not yet be identified as breakthroughs but could, from a present perspective, be confirmed or proposed as such. The call seeks to foster the discovery of individual precious artifacts that hold stories yet unknown. The call also seeks to draw attention to the collective impact that women have had on architecture, by framing singular artifacts in their aggregation.

We invite historical papers, speculative presentations, and short films, among additional types of presentations. All presentations should be approximately 17 minutes in length, and may be accompanied by audio-visual material and resources.

Please email 300-word abstract and a one-page CV, by November 15, 2021 to:

iawacenter@vt.edu

Subject heading: 2022 IAWA Symposium

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The International Archive of Women in Architecture Center

Founded in 1985, the mission of the International Archive of Women in Architecture Center (IAWA) is to document the history of women's involvement in architecture by collecting, preserving, storing and making available to researchers the professional papers of women architects, landscape architects, designers, architectural historians and critics, urban planners as well as the records of women's architectural organizations, from around the world. The IAWA collects this information to fill serious gaps in the availability of primary research materials for architectural, women's and social history research. These materials are held in Special Collections of the University Libraries. The Board of Advisors of the IAWA Center are a group of elected representatives from around the world, who oversee the research, publication, and publicity of the IAWA as well as identify potential donors (funds and work) for the archive. The IAWA is dedicated to:

Find and preserve the records of the pioneer generation of women architects, interior and industrial designers, landscape architects, and urban designers and planners, whose papers may be lost or dispersed if not collected immediately;

Appeal to retired women from these professions who have played a part in the history of the professions to donate their papers to the IAWA;

Appeal to active women architects, designers, and planners to save their papers and to consider donating them to the IAWA at a later date;

Serve as a clearinghouse of information on all women architects, designers, and planners, past and present, and to encourage research on the history of women in these professions through seminars, exhibits, and publications;

Foster cooperation between all libraries or archives containing data on, or collecting material on, women in architecture, design, and planning.

The growing archive consists of sketches, manuscripts, books, individual projects, and the works of an entire career. Primary research materials (unique or original works) preserved in the Archive include architectural drawings, photographs and slides, manuscripts, models, and job files. To meet the need of serving as a clearinghouse of information about all women in architecture, past, and present, the IAWA also collects secondary materials such as biographical information in addition to books and other publications and exhibitions. Through many significant and diverse donations, the Archive is growing into a tremendous historical resource. ***The Archive currently houses more than 470 collections*** and continues to grow in significance through donations from around the world.

To browse the collections and learn about the IAWA Archive please visit: <https://spec.lib.vt.edu/IAWA/>.
To learn about the current initiatives of the IAWA Center please visit: www.iawacenter.caus.vt.edu or the Instagram feed at: iawa_vt